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varieties of *Prunus* are ease of propagation, absence of suckers and the ability to serve as rootstock that is compatible with all cherries.

‘VSL-2’ was first asexually propagated in 1986 by the inventor at the Breeding Station in Krymsk, Russia. The method used was softwood cuttings. The distinguishing traits have been determined stable and are reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new cultivar. These traits in combination distinguish ‘VSL-2’ from all other existing varieties of *Prunus*. ‘VSL-2’ has not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic differences may be observed with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

1. ‘VSL-2’ serves as rootstock that is compatible with all other cherries.
2. ‘VSL-2’ propagates well by softwood cuttings, stool beds, and in vitro.
3. ‘VSL-2’ does not produce suckers.
4. ‘VSL-2’ exhibits a dwarf form.
5. ‘VSL-2’ is vigorous.
6. ‘VSL-2’ differs from the female parent *Prunus fruticosa* by increased vigor, large leaves, pink flowers, sour fruit, and absence of suckers.
7. ‘VSL-2’ differs from the male parent *Prunus lannesiana* by its smaller size, dark red, sour fruit, ease of propagation, and absence of stipules.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed botanical description of the new rootstock variety *Prunus* ‘VSL-2’. Observations, measurements, values, and comparisons were collected in McMinnville, Oregon from the inventor. The foliage, flower and fruit exhibited by this cultivar are of no economic or commercial value, therefore

comparisons and botanical descriptions of the foliage, fruit and flower are made for identification purposes only. Mature specimens, as well as bareroot specimens, were unavailable for photographing at the time this document was written. The color determinations are in accordance with the RHS Colour Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society, London England except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Prunus* 'VSL-2'.

Parentage: *Prunus* 'VSL-2' is an induced hybrid that resulted from crossing the following plants.

Female parent: *Prunus fruticosa* (not patented).

Male parent: *Prunus lannesiana* (not patented).

Type: Deciduous tree.

Use: 'VSL-2' serves well as rootstock for all other cherries.

Soil: All soils.

Light: Full sunlight.

Fruit bearing: Low fruit bearing.

Crop time: Requires 3 years from a rooted cutting to achieve finished product size ready to ship bareroot (1 year rootstock and 2 years with scion variety).

Dimensions at crop time: 2.5 m in height and 2 m. in width.

Vigor: 50-60 % of standard using *Prunus avium* as standard (sweet cherry seedling).

Habit: Dwarf and erect.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5A.

Propagation: Propagation can be accomplished by softwood cuttings, stool beds and meristem cuttings in vitro.

Rooting habit: Fine and fibrous initially. After 1 year roots become fleshy and thick.

Time to initiate roots: 6 months is required to develop roots at 22-25° Centigrade.

Disease and insect resistance: Normal resistance to disease and insects.

Trunk:

Trunk dimensions (at 3 years): 5 cm. in diameter and 20 cm in height above soil.

Trunk bark surface: Glabrous surface.

Trunk bark color: 178B

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

A

[illegible]

- Flower shape: Rotate.
- Bud dimensions: 3 mm. in width and 3 mm. in length.
- Bud color: 56C.
- Time of bloom: Flowers bloom at when plant is 1 year and flowers last for 7-8
- 5 days.
- Flower diameter: 2.5-3 cm. in diameter.
- Flower depth (throat): 2-2.5 mm. in depth.
- Bloom quantity: 40-50 flowers per branch.
- Number of petals: Five petals in number.
- 10 Fused or unfused: Petals are unfused.
- Petal shape: Oval.
- Petal margin: Entire and wavy.
- Flower color fully opened (upper and lower surfaces): 56D.
- Dimensions of peduncle: 2 cm. in length and 1 mm. in width.
- 15 Color of peduncle: 144A.
- Surface of peduncle: Glabrous surface.
- Calyx dimensions: 2-3 mm. in length and 7-8 mm. in width.
- Calyx surface: Glabrous surface.
- Pubescence: Absent.
- 20 Calyx color: 152A.
- Number of sepals: Five sepals in number.
- Natural flowering season: Spring.
- Persistent or self-cleaning: Self-cleaning.
- Fragrance: None.
- 25 Reproductive organs:
- Stamen number: Polyandrous. 20-25 stamens and unequal lengths.
- Stamen color: 145C.
- Anther shape: Round with stamen attached at center of dorsal surface.
- Anther color: 9B.
- 30 Anther dimensions: 1 mm. in length and 1 mm. in width.
- Amount of pollen: Heavy amount.

Color of pollen: 9B.

Pistil: One in number.

Pistil color: 144C.

Pistil dimensions: 1 cm. in length and .50 mm. in width.

5 Style color: 144C.

Style shape: Elongate.

Style dimensions: 1mm. in length and .50 mm. width.

Ovary dimensions: 2 mm. in length and 2 mm. in width.

Ovary color: 144B.

10 Ovary position: Superior.

TOGETHER

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